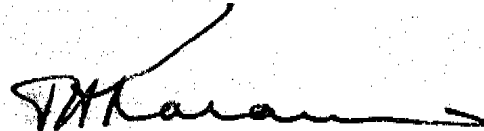


EYES ONLY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

3 February 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Brigadier General Alexander M. Haig
Deputy Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

Attached are two messages received this morning for you
from Ambassador Godley.



Thomas H. Karamessines
Deputy Director for Plans

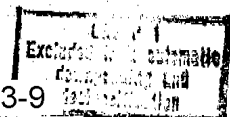
2 Attachments

ON-FILE NSC
RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

State Dept. review completed.

MORI/CDF C05076868

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE
EYES ONLY



TO BE DELIVERED TO GENERAL HAIG FROM AMBASSADOR GODLEY
TOP SECRET SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY
FROM AMBASSADOR
FOR GENERAL HAIG
SUBJECT/ OPERATION GOLD

I HAVE JUST TRANSMITTED EMBTEL 614 NODIS/ASHAU
WHICH FOLLOWS:
FOR THE SECRETARY

1. IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT OF STATE 018205 I GAVE
ITS GIST TO SISOUK. HE WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE OF
PROMPT WASHINGTON REACTION BUT WAS DISTURBED
THAT FRENCH PRESS AGENCY REPORTED TODAY THAT
FAR OFFICERS WOULD BE VISITING SAIGON SOON. HE IS
AT 1130 THIS MORNING DENYING THIS REPORT AND AGREED
WITH ME TO POSTPONE THE DEPARTURE OF THE FAR
OFFICERS UNTIL AT LEAST FEBRUARY 5 REPEAT 5.

2. NEW BUT RELATED SUBJECT. SISOUK ALSO LET ME
GLANCE AT THE RLG'S DRAFT DECLARATION TO BE ISSUED
AFTER THE OPERATION AGAINST TCHEPONE BEGINS. IT
DOES NOT REPEAT NOT PROTEST THE ACTION BUT ATTACKS

ALL FOREIGN TROOPS IN LAOS. IT NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE BEEN HERE FOR SOME TIME AND THAT THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL IS THEIR MAIN SUPPLY ROUTE TO SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. IT REAFFIRMS LAO SOVEREIGNTY, NEUTRALITY AND INDEPENDENCE AND WILL REFER TO THE 1962 AGREEMENTS.

3.. SUBSEQUENT TO FOREGOING I SAW THE PRIME MINISTER AND WENT OVER STATE 018205 WITH HIM. HE AGREED COMPLETELY, PARTICULARLY ON THE NECESSITY FOR DECISION BUT SAID HE WONDERS IF WE CAN KEEP ANYTHING SECRET. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT RATHER THAN MEETING IN SAIGON AND THE ARVN AND FAR OFFICERS MIGHT CONFER IN SOME MORE DISCREET PLACE SUCH AS DALAT BAN ME THOUT.

GP-1

T O P S E C R E T

TO BE DELIVERED TO GENERAL HAIG FROM AMBASSADOR GODLEY
TOP SECRET SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY
FROM AMBASSADOR
FOR GENERAL HAIG
SUBJECT: OPERATION GOLD

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED DÉPTEL 018205 NODIS/ASHAU
WHICH FOLLOWS:
FOR AMBASSADORS GODLEY AND BERGER ONLY
REF VIENTIANE 587

1. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE PROBLEMS INHERENT IN PROPOSED VISIT BY
FAR MILITARY TO SAIGON, WE BELIEVE THEY ARE MANAGEABLE IF
VISITORS CONDUCT THEMSELVES DISCREETLY. THIS WOULD MEAN
SUCH PRECAUTIONS AS CIVILIAN CLOTHES, UNMARKED AIRCRAFT,
ETC.

2. HOWEVER, WE THINK SISOUK WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO DELAY
THEIR DEPARTURE UNTIL DECISIONS ON EXECUTION PHASE II OF
THIS OPERATION ARE TAKEN IN WASHINGTON. MEETING THIS
SUBJECT, WHICH ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 2, HAS NOW
BEEN SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 4, REPEAT 4.

3. GODLEY SHOULD THEREFORE INFORM SISOUK THAT FAR OFFICERS CAN BE BRIEFED IN SAIGON ON ESSENTIALS OF OPERATION AND SUGGEST THEY GET IN TOUCH WITH GENERAL VIEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH ABOVE TIMETABLE. ROGERS

P-1

T O P S E C R E T